

STRATFORD & WEST HAM »» IN FOCUS

Covering Stratford and
Newtown and West Ham

Put a spring in your step



Dancing action at last year's
summer festival – don't miss top live
entertainment at the upcoming event

Stratford's spring festival is coming to you on Saturday 12 March in Old Town Hall from 12noon-4pm – be sure not to miss this great day out!

The FREE council-organised event has something to suit all ages and tastes from eclectic entertainment and top talent to martial arts and creative craft workshops.

On the live entertainment front, be dazzled by top groups including the return of Russian dance group, the Sputnik Association of Russian Speaking Women, whose performance at last year's summer festival was enjoyed by all.

Indulge in some talent spotting as Stratford's finest take their performances

to the masses as part of a competition to find the best act to perform at the Mayor's Town Show in July.

If you're a footie fanatic, there's a five-a-side tournament on Wednesday 9 March from 5-7pm for under 12s, under 14s and under 16s in the MUGA in West Ham Lane. The winners of the tournament will be presented with their trophy on 12 March at the festival.

If you'd rather take it easy and get creative, then the cake decorating workshops are for you.

The festival is also an opportunity to create history. Be part of shaping your own Olympic legacy by suggesting facts to be etched on the benches in the Olympic Park or have your say

about Theatre Royal's next pantomime.

Come armed with questions for the experts working on the Olympic Park. Be in the know and find out what opportunities are available to you.

Community lead councillor, Richard Crawford, said: "Thanks to all those who are working hard to make this event happen. It's going to be a showstopper – so make sure you get there early."

**Spring into Stratford
Saturday 12 March
12noon-4pm
Stratford Town Hall
The Broadway, E15
Call 0800 519 4015 or email
community.forums@newham.gov.uk**



2011 Census is counting on us all

On 27 March every household must complete a 2011 Census questionnaire so that a detailed count of the whole country's population can be taken.

The census enables the Government and organisations like councils and health authorities to plan essential services.

You must give information about the people living or staying with you on that day, whether you fill in your questionnaire before, on, or after 27 March. You need to complete it online, or fill in the paper questionnaire and send it back as soon as you have completed it. The closing date is 6 April.

The Newham Census team is offering help to residents in completing the questionnaire. For a full list of the completion events visit www.newham.gov.uk/census

Locally they take place at Stratford Library, The Grove, E15, on March 19 from 9.30am-12noon and 1-5pm; March 20, 1-5pm; March 23, 9.30am-12noon and 1-5pm; March 28, 3.30-7.30pm; and March 30 from 9.30am-12noon and 1-5pm.

Constructing careers



Twenty Newham residents are a step closer to their dream job in construction after graduating from the Construct your Career course run by regeneration charity East Potential in West Ham Lane.

Construct your Career gives unemployed people of all ages the skills, on-the-job experience and qualifications to work on a construction site. Graduates also receive support to find employment through contractors with apprenticeship opportunities.

The courses are run in partnership with Building Crafts College in Kennard Road.

Construct your Career has been running for four years and has helped over 400 people of all ages break into the industry.

Recent graduate Craig Knight said: "Construct your Career offered me much more than a training course. It is like being back at college but this time with a real purpose. In two weeks' time I will be starting a project on the Olympic site in Stratford. This will be a proud moment for me."

This spring East Potential will offer the Construct your Career taster course, which enables people to try the different trades such as carpentry and plumbing. Visit www.east-thames.co.uk/employment-training or call 0845 600 0830 to find out more.

Catch car criminals with free forensic checks

Newham police Motor Vehicle Crime Squad is going to be in your area, offering a free service to help catch criminals who have targeted your car.

A series of surgeries have been introduced over the next two months on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 5 and 7 pm at Stratford police station in West Ham Lane, allowing motorists to drop in with their vehicle if they have been a victim of crime.

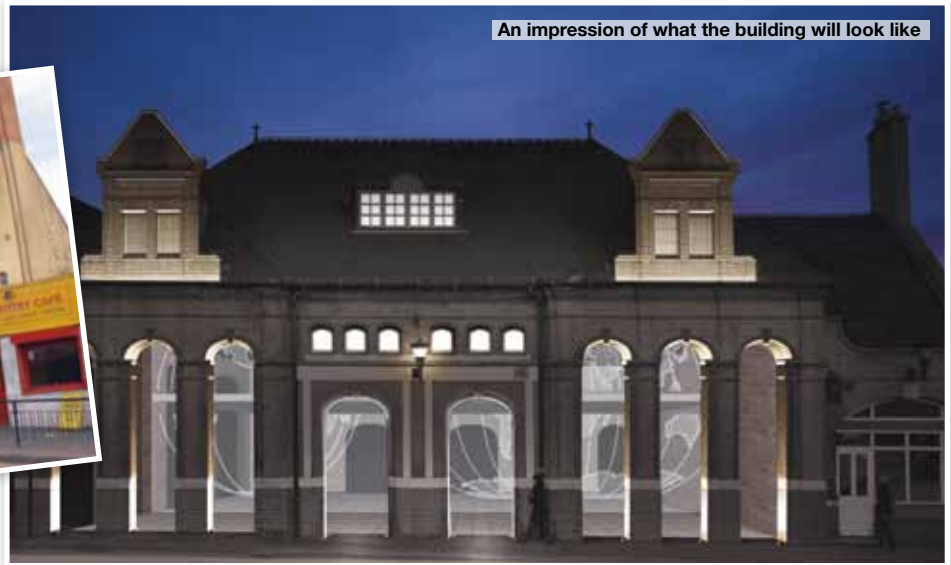
The initiative aims to encourage victims to report crimes as soon as possible to prevent the loss of key forensic opportunities.

You can reduce the chances of becoming a victim of motor vehicle by:

- Parking your vehicle in a well-lit and busy area, possibly in a secured car park.
- Taking all valuables out of your vehicle, leaving nothing on show for potential thieves.
- Ensuring you have locked your vehicle and activate all security devices your car may have.

Free forensic car checks, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 5-7pm at Stratford Police Station, 18 West Ham Lane, E15.

An impression of what the building will look like



The existing building as it is now



Stratford Market Station gets a new lease of life

Stratford Market Station – as it was known in its heyday – is set to get a makeover to complement works done on the High Street, and will act as an entrance to the new Docklands Light Railway Station (DLR).

The station was originally built in 1892 and served trains running from Shoreditch to North Woolwich. It eventually closed in 1957.

However with the opening of the new Stratford High Street DLR this

summer, the two-storey Victorian building is set to get a new lease of life - to improve visibility and access to the new station.

Work has already begun to:

- restore and enhance the existing Victorian façade
- widen the footpath through the front of the building by replacing the wall with double height glazing, creating an open airy space which may contain a café

• create pedestrian access through the building to the new DLR station.

The new Stratford High Street DLR station will use the existing North Woolwich line to connect with services running between Stratford International and Canning Town.

The project is being grant-funded, mainly by London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, and works are expected to be complete by the summer.



As you read this the final touches to a new smoother and brighter High Street are being made, as the works near completion.

Newham Council has been working with London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and Design for London to improve the High Street by:

- resurfacing the length of the High Street from Bridge Road to the flyover
- reducing the unnecessary signage,

railings and street furniture

- reconstructing and repaving footpaths
- replacing street lighting with 80 new brighter lamp columns along the length of the High Street
- planting trees and shrubs.

The works have been carried out to modernise and make the High Street safer for pedestrians and cyclists and more attractive by removing any clutter from signage or street furniture.

Stop press:

As In Focus was going to print it was announced that Newham Council and West Ham United FC's joint bid to take over the Olympic Stadium after 2012 has been named as the preferred option by the Olympic Park Legacy Company.

Read pages 17-20 in the Newham Mag to find out more about what the decision means for you.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

AANCHAL WOMEN'S AID

Aanchal is an organisation based in Bryant Community Centre that reaches out to Asian women and children who suffer from domestic abuse.

Founder and CEO, Sudarshan Buhi MBE, set up the women's aid organisation in 1984 after a woman approached her while she was working for local charity Community Links to ask her for support.

The woman was afraid for her life, says Sudarshan: "She was afraid her children were going to be kidnapped by her husband and taken to Pakistan."

"Her desperation drove me to try and do something. Anything. We both ended up in the High Court in London by 2pm that afternoon. By 2.30pm she was holding a piece of paper which gave protection to her children. This piece of paper changed her whole life," says Sudarshan.

Word of mouth spread and Sudarshan soon found herself inundated with requests for help from women. This led to her setting up a charity within Community Links



Sudarshan (centre) holding a cheque at an empowerment and education conference last year

called Apna Ghar. This became an independent charity in 2005 and is known today as Aanchal Women's Aid, which has continued to provide much needed support to Asian women and their children ever since.

The small team of staff and volunteers provide an array of services including a 24-hour helpline, counselling sessions and a crisis response unit among many others.

Sudarshan has also played an instrumental role in shaping the council's policy on domestic violence, advising and providing support.

Aanchal Women's Aid is based in The Lounge, Bryant Street Community Centre, Bryant Street, E15. Call 020 8221 3800, email info@aanchal.org.uk or visit www.aanchal.org.uk for more information.

WHAT'S ON STRATFORD AND WEST HAM

Stratford Spring Festival

Saturday 12 March
11am-3pm
Stratford Town Hall
The Broadway, E15
(see p1 for more details)

Badminton competition heats – all abilities welcome

Thursday 24 February
Junior competitions (under 16s) 2-5pm
Adult competitions (16+ males and females) 6-8pm
Carpenters and Docklands Centre
98 Gibbins Road, E15

For even more things to do check out the What's On in NewWham calendar, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events visit www.newham.com

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email: infocus@newham.gov.uk

MEET YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillors out and about: If you would like a councillor to visit your community organisation, school, place of worship, meeting or event please call 020 3373 6045 or email laura.beswick@newham.gov.uk. To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk



Richard Crawford



Charlene McLean



Terry Paul

Stratford and Newtown Ward

Every Saturday
10.30am
St John's Church
Stratford Broadway, E15



Freda Bourne



John Gray



Ron Manley

West Ham Ward

Freda Bourne
Second Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Rokeby Community Centre,
Rokeby Street, E15
Fourth Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Vicarage Lane Community
Centre, Vicarage Lane, E15

John Gray
Third Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Rokeby Community Centre,
Rokeby Street, E15

Second Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Vicarage Lane Community
Centre, Vicarage Lane, E15

Ron Manley
First Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Rokeby Children's Centre,
Rokeby Street, E15
Fourth Saturday of the month
10 - 11am Leather Gardens TA, 1st Floor,
Brassett Point, Abbey Road, Stratford, E15

Need to talk to Mayor Sir Robin Wales? Being an elected mayor, Sir Robin is directly accountable to you. Look out for Question Time times and dates in the Newham Mag, visit www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 3373 0437.